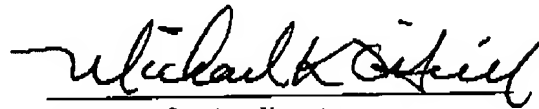


On the other hand, the instant application is entitled to the filing date of its parent Application No. 09/282,580, which is March 31, 1999. This date is significantly before the publication dates of either of the applied articles.

It is therefore respectfully requested for the Examiner to withdraw all § 102(b) rejections that have been entered in this case.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa, California office at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,



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